AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica,

wherein the precipitated silica has a ~~which is characterized by having~~ BET specific surface area of at least 220 m^2/g, and

wherein when ~~and when it is dispersed in~~ ion-exchange water is added to the easily dispersible cake to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica with a concentration of 5% by weight ~~in concentration~~, said dispersion being stirred with a propeller mixer to affect a preliminary dispersion, a resultant slurry being treated to be dispersed with a high-pressure homogenizer once at a processing pressure of 78 MPa, and further being ~~and further~~ diluted to reduce the silica concentration ~~of~~ to 1.5% by weight, ~~the~~ a resultant dispersion ~~having~~ has a light-scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.

2. (Original) An easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica according to Claim 1, having a water content within a range of 83-93% by weight.

3. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A process for producing ~~an~~ the easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica according to Claim 1, comprising, ~~characterized by~~ using a ~~as an initial reaction~~ liquid ~~one~~ selected from the group consisting of aqueous alkali silicate solution, alkaline aqueous solution of which pH is adjusted with a basic substance, and water~~;~~ as an initial reaction liquid,

wherein said process ~~comprising~~ comprises simultaneously adding an alkali silicate and a mineral acid to a reaction liquid of which pH is being maintained at a fixed value within a range of 7.5-11.5, and of which temperature is being maintained at not lower than 90°C, whereby forming precipitated silica through their reaction; and separating said precipitated silica from said reaction liquid in wet state.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process for producing an easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica according to Claim 3, ~~in which the~~wherein a concentration of ~~the~~ silica solid in ~~the~~ a reaction mixture at ~~the~~ an ending time of the reaction is not higher than 50 g/L.

5. (Withdrawn) A dispersion of precipitated silica which is characterized by being a dispersion of an easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica as described in Claim 1 in a polar solvent, the average particle size of the precipitated silica particles present in the dispersion being not greater than 300 nm and the ratio of aggregated particles having a particle size equaling to or more than 500 nm being not higher than 5% by volume.

6. (Withdrawn) A dispersion of precipitated silica according to Claim 5, in which further a cationic polymer is dispersed.

7. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing the dispersion of precipitated silica of Claim 5, in which a silica slurry formed by dispersing a cake of precipitated silica in a polar solvent is subjected to a fine pulverization treatment with a high pressure homogenizer, wherein the cake of precipitated silica is characterized by having BET specific surface area of at least 220 m^2/g and when it is dispersed in ion-exchange water to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica of 5% by weight in concentration and further diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by weight, the dispersion having a light-scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.

8. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a dispersion of precipitated silica according to Claim 6, in which a liquid premixture formed by dispersing a cake of precipitated silica and cationic polymer in a polar solvent is subjected to a fine pulverization treatment with a high pressure homogenizer, wherein the cake of precipitated silica is characterized by

having BET specific surface area of at least 220 m^2/g and when it is dispersed in ion-exchange water to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica of 5% by weight in concentration and further diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by weight, the dispersion having a light-scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.

9. (Withdrawn) A coating liquid for ink-jet recording sheet which is characterized by being obtained by dispersing the easily dispersible cake of precipitate silica of Claim 1 and a binder in a polar solvent, and the percent transmission of the coating liquid as measured after diluting the same to the silica concentration of 1.5% by weight being at least 20%.

10. (Withdrawn) A coating liquid for ink-jet recording sheet according to Claim 9, which further comprises a cationic polymer.

11. (Withdrawn) A process for making a coating liquid for ink-jet recording sheet of Claim 9, which is characterized by dispersing a cake of precipitated silica and a binder in a polar solvent, wherein the cake of precipitated silica is characterized by having BET specific surface area of at least 220 m^2/g and when it is dispersed in ion-exchange water to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica of 5% by weight in concentration and further diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by weight, the dispersion having a light-scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.

12. (Withdrawn) A process for making a coating liquid for ink-jet recording sheet of Claim 10, which is characterized by dispersing a cake of precipitated silica, cationic polymer and binder in a polar solvent, wherein the cake of precipitated silica is characterized by having BET specific surface area of at least 220 m^2/g and when it is dispersed in ion-exchange water to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica of 5% by

weight in concentration and further diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by weight, the dispersion having a light-scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.